



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

**16 DECEMBER 2016**

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#### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

##### **(U) Simi Valley – Second Man Arrested for Worshipper's Stabbing Outside Mosque**

(U) A second man was arrested yesterday for allegedly stabbing a worshipper near a California mosque in an apparent hate crime. Marco De La Cruz, of Simi Valley was arrested at his home on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, making criminal threats and violations of civil rights and his parole. De La Cruz is a gang member with an extensive criminal record and a neighbor of John Matteson, who was arrested shortly after the attack late Saturday night. Matteson, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to making criminal threats, disturbing the peace and other charges with hate-crime enhancements that make them felonies. Police said earlier this week that the men may have earlier asked to use a bathroom at the Jamia Razi Islamic Center and became angry when told it was closed. The men allegedly began yelling anti-Muslim slurs at people leaving the mosque, which led to a fight in a nearby shopping center parking lot where the stabbing occurred, police said. A 36-year-old man was stabbed in the abdomen and taken to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries, police said.

SOURCE: 15 December 2016, [AP News](#)

#### **(U) NATIONAL**

##### **(U) District of Columbia –State Department Warns US Citizens against Remaining in Venezuela**

(U) Washington – The State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council is advising US citizens in Venezuela against remaining in the country, warning that "if security climate worsens, US citizens should note they're responsible for arranging their own travel out of Venezuela," according to travel warning issued last night. Posting photos of protests and street fires, the State Department also warned US citizens against traveling to Venezuela because of increasing violent crime and social unrest. In a new travel advisory, the State Department warned that the political situation is unpredictable and violent crime is endemic. Venezuelan security forces have arrested or detained US citizens with little or no evidence of a crime. Conditions in Venezuela worsened in recent months as the country has plummeted into a deepening economic crisis amid rising inflation and a significant increase in homicides. In recent months, anti-government demonstrations have broken out regularly as desperate citizens taken to the streets to protest the lack of even the most basic goods.

SOURCE: 15 December 2016, [Miami Herald](#)

##### **(U) Kansas – New Gun Charges for Two Kansas Men Charged in Bombing Plot**

(U) Wichita – Two of the men accused of plotting to bomb a western Kansas apartment complex where Somali immigrants live now also face firearms charges. Yesterday's superseding indictment, filed in US District Court in Kansas, again charges Patrick Stein, Gavin Wright, and Curtis Allen with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction. It also adds new charges: illegally possessing firearms because of a prior misdemeanor domestic battery conviction for Allen, and two counts against Stein alleging gun violations in connection with the bomb conspiracy.

SOURCE: 15 December 2016, [AP](#)

##### **(U) Maryland – US Election Agency Breached**

(U) Silver Spring – The US agency charged with ensuring that voting machines meet security standards was itself penetrated by a hacker after the November 2016 elections, according to a security firm working with law enforcement on the matter. The security firm, Recorded Future, was monitoring underground electronic markets for hackers and discovered someone offering log-on credentials for access to computers at the US Election Assistance Commission. Posing as a potential buyer, the researchers engaged in a conversation with the hacker. Eventually they discovered that the Russian-speaking hacker had obtained the credentials of more than 100 people at the election commission after exploiting a common database vulnerability. The Election Assistance Commission said in a statement late yesterday that it had become aware of a "potential intrusion" and was "working with federal law enforcement agencies to investigate the potential breach and its effects." The election commission certifies voting systems and develops standards for technical guidelines and best practices for election officials across the country.

SOURCE: 14 December 2016, [Reuters](#)

## **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

### **(U) Afghanistan – Largest Ever Heroin Seizure in Afghanistan**

(U) Kabul – A joint US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), American Special Forces and Afghan counter-narcotics operation in October, resulted in a seizure of 20 tons of drugs, which officials said was the "largest known seizure of heroin in Afghanistan, if not the world." "This drug seizure alone prevented not only a massive amount of heroin hitting the streets throughout the world but also denied the Taliban money that would have been used to fund insurgent activities in and around the region," a DEA spokesman stated yesterday. The DEA spokesman also stated a "conservative" estimated street value was about \$60 million for the 12.5 tons of morphine base, 6.4 tons of heroin base, 134 kilograms of opium, 129 kilograms of crystal heroin, and 12 kilograms of hashish seized in the raid.

SOURCE: 15 December 2016, [ABC News](#)

### **(U) Egypt – Likely to See More ISIL-Related Attacks**

(U) Cairo – In the wake of a bombing that killed 24 people at a Cairo church, some analysts warn the largest country in the Arab world may face more attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Last Sunday's assault on civilians in Cairo signals that ISIL, which on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the attack, is escalating its offensive in the country and shows the need for the country to change how it fights extremism. Since the 2013 Sissi-led ouster of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's government has fought an Islamist insurgency in northern parts of the Sinai Peninsula while at the same time waging war against domestic opponents, jailing thousands of members of the now-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood as well as secular dissidents. Islamic militants have for the most part avoided targeting civilians in Egypt. In 2014 the Sinai-based Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis pledged allegiance to ISIL, the group's tactics have changed and over time it has copied ISIL's practice of indiscriminately killing civilians.

SOURCE: 15 December 2016, [ABC News](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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